

18. Device according to Claim 14 further comprising support means for supporting the wire or felt in the first wedge zone said support means comprising perforated plastic, steel plates, foil strips or table rolls.

21. Device according to Claim 20 wherein the second wedge zone has an inlet end and an outlet end, the second wedge zone being pressure loaded at the outlet end.

Please delete claims 1-13, 15 and 28.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, independent claim 14 with dependent claims 16-27 will be present in the application.

Claims 14 has been amended to recite that the first top wire and the bottom wire form a first wedge zone having an inlet end and an outlet end, with the first wedge zone being pressure loaded at the outlet end. Such structure is shown in Figure 3 and disclosed on page 8, lines 13-18, of the specification. Claim 21 has been amended to recite that the second wedge zone has an inlet end and an outlet end, with the second wedge zone being pressure loaded at the outlet end. Such structure is also shown in Figure 3 and is disclosed on page 8, lines 22-24. Therefore, the amendments do not introduce any new matter.

Claims 14-18 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 1,707,375 (Upson). Claims 1, 4, 6, 13-18, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the Upson reference in view of Applicants' admitted prior art and/or *Modern Pulp and Paper Making*, by Calkin. Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art in view of the Upson reference and U.S. 2,881,670 (Thomas) and/or U.S. 2,881,676 (Thomas) as necessary, and U.S. 3,929,065 (Csordas et al.) and U.S. 3,595,744 (Skoldkvist) and Calkin as further necessary. Claims 2, 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Upson in view of Applicants' admitted prior art and/or Calkin as applied to claim 1 above and further in